Assistance of Kerala

1529. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amout of assistance sanctioned to the State Government of Kerala under the Special Component Plan for the benefit of SCs/STs Community students for the period 1999—2002;

(b) whether the amount granted has been spent fully and if not, the unspent or lapsed amount;

(c) whether the CAG has made any adverse remarks on the lapse of grants; and

(d) the amount of grant sanctioned to Kerala towards post-matric scholarships and fees for SCs/STs students for the year 2001—04 and whether any excess claimed against the actual requirement and the amount so claimed pending, if any, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Special Central Assistance (SCA) is given as an additive to Special Component Plan (SCP) for implementing income-generating schemes for SCs by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Hence, no Special Central Assistance was released for the benefit of students.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The following amount was released to Government of Kerala towards Post Matric Scholarship for SCs/STs students during the period 2001—04:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	SC	ST
2001-02	938.16	92.00
2002-03	674.44	Nil
2003-04	677.57*	Nil

* Includes Rs. 48.07 lakhs released for Book Bank component of the scheme.

In case of Scheduled Castes students there is no demand pending for the year 2001-02. State Government demanded central assistance of Rs. 1500.00 lakhs and Rs. 2321.00 lakhs during 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively which was restricted to the releases mentioned above.

In case of Scheduled Tribes, the State Government had an unspent balance of Rs. 72.89 lakhs and Rs. 38.74 lakhs in 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively. During 2003-04, an amount of Rs. 25.19 lakhs was outstanding, which was released during 2004-05, as part of Rs. 146.14 lakhs released to the State during the year.

Report on menace of beggary

1530. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study on the extent of beggary in the country has revealed that 99 per cent of men and 97 per cent of women get into beggary due to poverty;

(b) whether the study also reveals that a large chunk of beggar population were earning far Below the Poverty Line before they got into begging;

(c) whether anti-beggary and vagrancy laws in force go with the basic premise that beggary is an outcome of choice and not compulsion; and

(d) whether majority of beggars interviewed wanted to settle down in normal life if given opportunity by the authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Government is not in receipt of any such study.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

(c) The laws provide for taking into consideration, grounds which include the age and character of the beggar, circumstances and conditions in which the beggar is living and such other matters as may, in the opinion of the court, require to be taken into consideration in the interest of the beggars.